

A name of a genus is not validly published unless it is accompanied . . . (2) by the citation of a previously and effectively published description of the genus under another name.

As an example of such valid publication the Rules give

*Thuspeinantha* Th. Dur. (*Ind. Gen. Phanerog.* p. x: 1888), accompanied by a reference to the previously described genus *Tapeinanthus* Boiss. (non Herb.).

*Pteretis* Raf. was quite parallel with *Thuspeinantha*: the replacement of an invalid earlier name of a genus which was properly described; and as such it was listed by Christensen, *Ind. Fil. Suppl.* ii, 30 (1917). The name was taken up by me in *RHODORA*, xxxvii. 219 (1935) and by Small, *Ferns Vic. N. Y.* 140 (1935); by Merrill in *Am. Fern. Journ.* xxxiii. 56 (1943) and his *Ind. Raf.* 72 (1949) with correct bibliography as a "*Nomen validum*"; and its adoption in the *American Fern Journal* and by most recent students in America speaks for itself. Many botanists have regretted (and so stated) the frequent upsets in the names of our North American Ostrich-Fern, *Pteretis pennsylvanica* (Willd.) Fern. in *RHODORA*, xlvii. 123 (1945). Now, "Malgré la synonymie chargée de cette fougère", M. Marcel Raymond, feeling that "on ne peut employer *Pteretis* Raf., parce que, comme COPELAND l'a démontré avec autorité . . . ce genre n'a jamais été publié conformément aux règles", has added to the synonymy another name: *Matteuc[c]ia pennsylvanica* (Willd.) Raymond in *Naturaliste Canad.* lxxvii. 55 (1950). This combination, published under a misconception, will stand only if the perpetually tinkered "permanent" Rules are altered by the conservation of *Matteuccia*.

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THE SEEMING INVALIDITY OF SOME SUBSTITUTES FOR THE NAME *HABENARIA STRAMINEA*.—In *RHODORA*, xxviii. 174 (1926) the species *Habenaria straminea* Fernald was first published, its type from calcareous barrens along the Straits of Belle Isle in northern Newfoundland, but the species also occurring in southern Greenland, Iceland and on the Faroe Islands, where it had been misidentified with the European *H. albida* (L.) R. Br. In 1929 Mr. Frank Morris, doubting the specific distinctness of our plant, called it *H. albida* (L.) R. Br., var. *straminea* (Fern.) F.

Morris in Morris & Eames, *Our Wild Orchids*, 69, plates 23 and 24 (1929); and in *RHODORA*, xxxv. 237-239, t. 251, figs. 1 and 2 (1933) I showed by photography, the new species and enlarged flowers (fig. 3) of the European *H. albida*. To me, as to Asa Gray, Sereno Watson, Britton and Ames, the latter a life-long student of the *Orchidaceae*, *Habenaria* is a natural and inclusive genus. To many Europeans, with far fewer representatives of the group than in North America, it is a series of genera. Nevertheless, in other and less sensational families than the *Orchidaceae* they do not segregate groups with profound morphological differences into microgenera! Surely, *Salix*, § *Reticulatae* Fries, the genus *Chamitea* Kerner, is in its morphological characters, geographic range and habit more strikingly unlike § *Pentandrae* Dumort., the genus *Lusekia* Opiz, than are the reputed generic segregates of *Habenaria*. Nevertheless, *Salix*, with relatively inconspicuous flowers, is kept intact. Plenty of other aggregate-genera, which are quite as separable as the elements in inclusive *Habenaria*, are kept intact by the *Habenaria*-splitters: such groups as *Saxifraga* or *Rubus*, for example; for, if there are subgenera or sections as definitely separable as are the reputed genera of the aggregate *Habenaria*, they occur in *Rubus*. *Rubus* subgenera *Chamaemorus* (Ehrh.) Focke, *Cylactis* (Raf.) Focke (Genus *Cylactis* Raf.), *Idaeobatus* Focke and *Eubatus* Focke are quite as eligible for generic separation as are the so-called genera segregated in Europe (and, of course, by Small, Rydberg and their followers in America) from the natural group, *Habenaria*.

The primary object of this note, however, is to protest against the very doubtful and apparently illegitimate publication of alternative or provisional combinations without regard for the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature. Prior to the International Congress of 1930 the unfortunate situation was realized and discussed, but it was soon referred to the Executive Committee for decision, an effective means of wholly sidetracking it. At Amsterdam in 1935 (see Sirks, *Zesde Internat. Bot. Congr. Proc.* i. 364, 366 (1936)) the matter (Art. 37 ter) was discussed and the article was accepted:

A name of a taxonomic group is not validly published unless it is definitely accepted by the author who published it. A name proposed provisionally (*nomen provisorium*) in anticipation of the eventual acceptance of the group, or of a particular circumscription, position or

rank of a given group, or merely mentioned incidentally is not validly published.

The special example brought before the Congress was "the case of the name *Cymbopogon Bequaertii* and *Andropogon Bequaerti* published simultaneously in *Bull. Jard. Bot. Bruxelles*, vi. p. 8 (1919) as follows."

"*Cymbopogon Bequaertii* DeWild. nov. sp.  
*Andropogon Bequaertii* DeWild. nom. nov."

In the case at issue Löve in *Botaniska Notiser* (1950) 36, 37, wrote of the plant validly published as *Habenaria straminea* Fernald in *RHODORA*, xxviii. 174 (1926) and *RHODORA*, xxxv. 237, t. 251, figs. 1 and 2 (1933):

If named as species, the Icelandic-American type should bear the name *Leucorchis straminea* (FERN.) LÖVE, comb. nova (based on *Habenaria straminea* FERNALD, 1926, p. 174), but if placed as subspecies under the species *Leucorchis albida* it should be named ssp. *straminea* (FERN.) LÖVE, ssp. nova (based on *Habenaria straminea* Fernald, l. c.). In the latter case, the subspecies name ssp. *eu-albida* LÖVE, ssp. nova (based on *Satyrium albidum* L. 1753; *Habenaria albida* [L.] B. BR. s. str., excl. *H. straminea* FERN.) would be appropriate for the European type.<sup>1</sup>

These combinations by Löve are all too tentative; they are the provisional or alternative types of names specially aimed at by Art. 37ter of the International Rules.—M. L. FERNALD.

<sup>1</sup> Löve gives a map (his fig. 7) in which he shows *H. straminea* in North America radiating from the Straits of Belle Isle northward into Labrador where it is unknown, and half-way down the eastern side of Newfoundland where it is also unknown. In Newfoundland it extends from the eastern end of the Straits southwestward along the calcareous coast!